

## **CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM OVERVIEW OF 20 DRAFT ALTERNATIVES**

After extensive public input and technical analysis, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program has drafted 20 alternatives solutions for problems in the Bay-Delta system. Each draft alternative is a combination of many actions -- such as operational and policy changes, habitat restoration, and water flow adjustments -- that together form a comprehensive solution to problems in the Bay-Delta's four critical areas: ecosystem health, water quality, water supply, and vulnerability to disaster.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program operates on the premise that no single operational change or new facility will solve the myriad interrelated problems in the Bay-Delta system. Hence, each alternative is designed to include a balanced array of disparate actions that, when combines, solve many problems simultaneously.

Far from being final products, the draft alternatives are subject to significant change based on further public input and technical analysis, including the possibility of combining portions of more than one alternative to form a new alternative.

While the alternatives vary in emphasis and detail, they share certain "core actions," cost-effective measures that already enjoy broad acceptance among stakeholders. Currently, the alternatives include core actions addressing the following areas of concern:

- ♦ habitat restoration in the Delta and upstream of the Delta
- ♦ reduction in the effects that diversions have on fish
- ♦ protection of anadromous fish
- ♦ reduction in reliance on exports
- ♦ increase in water supply predictability
- ♦ management of water quality
- ♦ improvements to system reliability

Beyond their common core actions, the alternatives range from those that change the operation of the existing Bay-Delta system to those that restructure the system itself. One alternative, for example, emphasizes upgrading levees and restoring habitat in the existing system, leading to fewer regulatory restrictions on water diverted from existing diversion points. In contrast, another alternative proposes constructing new diversion points and a new conveyance facility west of the Delta. However, none of the alternatives excludes either reoperation or restructuring.

Whatever its emphasis, every alternative should reflect the "solution principles" of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. By these principles, any Bay-Delta solution that receives serious consideration should be affordable, equitable, implementable, and durable. It should reduce conflicts among beneficial users of the system while posing no significant redirected impacts. While the alternatives currently under consideration have been designed to incorporate these principles, the Program Team will look to stakeholders and the general public for input about how well this intention is realized in the proposed alternatives.